Four Recalled in Ethics Probe of Schorr

Post 9/15/76

By Peggy Simpson
Associated Press

The House ethics committee recalled four witnesses yesterday in its probe of who leaked a House intelligence committee report to CBS reporter Daniel Schorr.

They included the intelligence committee's former staff director, A. Searle Field; two former staff members, Sandra A. Zeune and John L. Boos; and Robert Brauer, an aide to Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.).

The questioning was behind closed doors. Committee sources said the focus was on Brauer.

Brauer said he would stick by his previous sworn testimony that he had taken the report home with him the weekend the committee approved its publication but only to help prepare remarks for Dellums. He said he would reiterate under oath that he did not give the report to Schorr and does not know who did.

Schorr's attorney has said the reporter obtained the report, which was on intelligence operations, soon after the committee voted on Jan. 23 to publish it. On Jan. 29, the House overruled the committee and voted to seal the report.

Schorr subsequently made his copy available to The Village Voice, a New York City weekly newspaper.

Meanwhile, 36 members of the House signed a letter to the ethics committee asking the panel not to try to force Schorr to reveal who leaked the report to him.

In addition, petitions with 5,510 signatures gathered by The Newspaper Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists urging the ethics committee to halt its investigation of Schorr were turned over to the committee.

The letter and the petitions were announced at a news conference at which reporters said their rights to protect sources must be preserved.

Lanny Larson, a Fresno Bee reporter, said the four Bee newsmen jailed for refusing to disclose their source for a news story signed the petition urging that the Schorr investigation be stopped.

Larson said the four Fresno reporters will go back before a judge Friday for a hearing on whether they must stay in jail.

The International Radio, Television News Directors Association also sent a message to the committee saying it supports all protests against the proceedings in the Schorr case.

The ethics committee's request for $100,000 more to complete the Schorr investigation was postponed indefi-

Va. Panel Lifts Ban

RICHMOND, Sept. 14 (UPI)—The Virginia Senate Rules Committee today lifted a ban on the release of state telephone credit card records that was imposed following published reports that a few legislators used the cards for personal calls.

Sen. Willard Moody (D-Portsmouth) said his committee agreed with Attorney General General Andrew P. Miller that the records are covered by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and therefore must be disclosed.